

• GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION •



YPBC NEWS

December 2014



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In this issue:

	Page
Peter Writes	3
Pastoral Care Musings	4
Discipleship - Advent	5
Children's Ministries	6
Parish Nurse	6
Women's Executive	8
Director of Operations	9
Lester Randall P F	10
Why Study The Bible	11
Refugee Sponsorship	11
Transitions	12
Dalton School	13
YP Gallery	15

There were comments about the cover of the September issue: too dark, expect brighter colors on the cover, what does it mean?, etc. An explanation: the creation was from a larger WWI photo, the Great War having started 100 years ago; the sky was darkened, "the lights are going out all over Europe" it was said. Cropping was done and the outline of the trees were given lighter edges and the three large trees were meant to represent three crosses.



Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send them to:
pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

Paul R Hill

John Rutter's favorite carol, Born On A New Day.

It was originally composed by John David, Welsh musician and songwriter, now with Christmas words by Philip Lawson of The King's Singers. It has become a signature tune of The King's Singers. It begins:

*Born on a new day.
Meekness, Love, Humility
Come down to us this day:
Christ your birth has proved to me
You are the new day*

and ends with:

*Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life
Healing sadness, ending strife:
You we welcome, Lord of life
Born on a new day
You are the new day.*

It can be accessed on YouTube by typing in "Born on a New Day King's Singers", then selecting. Another version by The Cambridge Singers, John Rutter, is also available on YouTube. This version has an interesting string line, adding depth.

CHURCH LIFE



There have been some great highlights in the life of our church this fall. We will not soon forget the visit of the Ukrainian Choir and those of us who heard them sing ‘grace’ before the evening meal can still see the wonder and joy in the faces of those who had suffered so much loss and grief in their homeland of late. But it was when they sang the Prayer for Ukraine at the beginning of the concert and all the Ukrainians in attendance rose to their feet and either sang or wept that we knew something more than just music was in our midst.

Only a few weeks later we had Morten Lauridsen with us and a vast choir singing his magnificent music. I watched some of our own young people in the choir that evening and glimpsed heaven in their eyes as the composer spoke of the things in his heart that moved him to compose. I could just imagine a day many years from now when one of our young choristers will be sitting in church flanked by grandchildren as the choir sings a piece by Lauridsen. The children will look up to their grandparent and say as we did, “This music is so beautiful,” only to be told of the day Lauridsen was here.

As we listened to the *Lux Aeterna*, Lauridsen told us to think of those who had gone on before us as just as he had thought of his dying mother when he composed the work, healing and hope and light visited us at the end of a dark week when two Canadian soldiers had been killed in uniform. There was deep communion far beyond what met the ear and the eye.

Less than forty-eight hours later it was the great Biblical scholar and prophet of our times, Walter Brueggemann, standing in the pulpit of Yorkminster Park. He told the clergy gathered for the annual Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship to give ear to the troublesome lines in the Psalms of Lament. So many other voices call on us to silence those lines and omit them. Brueggemann told us of having read one of the most difficult psalms of all to a small group and wondered aloud in all seriousness who could have written such a psalm. A woman put up her hand and identified it as the psalm of a woman who had been raped. It wasn’t music to our ears but it was a profound revelation that there is no place too dark for the Word of God. It was as if in that moment the woman had reached out to touch the hem of Christ’s garment and moved us all to the depths of our being.

And then there was the great Irish Tenor, John McDermott, paying tribute in a concert of Remembrance to those who made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down their lives. When it was all over and his final encore had been sung he said to me, “May I come and sing here again? There is something very special in this place.”

It would have been so easy to say, “Well yes there is,” and to go on to speak of the architecture, design and acoustic of the Sanctuary or to speak proudly of the choir and ushers and the warm, friendly and loving spirit of the people of the church and all of those things are more than true, but there is something so much more. It is the Word the darkness cannot put out. It is the One who laid down his life that we might live. It is the song that touches something so deep that the dead are raised and with us in a glorious communion. It is a freedom and joy that no foreign army can frighten away. It is all here in Christ and it is so much more than meets the eye.

And so in this glorious season leading to Christmas let us seek to encounter the Living Christ in new ways believing that he is with us always as he promised. May we all be sensitive to Christ’s presence in this Christmas season and freely share his love that others too might come to see Jesus.

Thank you to so many for a wonderful fall season! Have a truly blessed and wonderful Christmas!

Grace and Peace,

Peter

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

“From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast.” (Job 37:9-10)

“From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.” (Job 38:29-30)



One year ago this month most of us woke up on the Sunday before Christmas only to discover that our city had been hit by a huge ice storm overnight. My first reaction was “Wow, is it ever pretty outside!” The ice on the trees and homes created a shimmering and luminous effect on the whole neighborhood. But then another reality set in – we had no power. As I investigated further, our street looked like someone went crazy with a chainsaw. With all the mature trees in our area, many branches had fallen from the weight of the ice. This brought down lots of power lines. After trying four different ways to get out of our neighborhood, we finally squeezed by a fallen tree on one street and made it to church. Like many of you, we were without power for three full days. By the third day, our house thermostat read 5 degrees Celsius. Our cats even climbed into bed with us to stay warm! We were never so happy when, in the

wee hours of Christmas morning, our power came back on.

I must confess that I caught myself complaining numerous times during those three days. We lamented the fact that our Christmas was ruined, and we would have to make other plans. But it finally dawned on us that we needed to keep things in perspective. Suddenly we were becoming obsessed with “first world problems.” (A “first world problem” is a slang term which refers to the things we complain about in a prosperous country, because of the absence of more pressing concerns. It has entered our lexicon in recent years, particularly on social networking sites like Twitter. Some examples would be: complaining about traffic; subway problems; lack of good vacation options; not being able to find your favorite food in the grocery store – you get the idea.) Compared to many people in developing countries, these are minor if not insignificant issues. Many people in our world barely eke out an existence. Electricity, heat, and running water are luxuries, or only experienced intermittently. The ice storm was a reminder of all the good things we take for granted at Christmas time. In the end, our Christmas wasn’t “ruined” – it was just different, and we learned some valuable lessons about the important things of life – family, friends, not losing perspective, and keeping our sense of humor.

Thirty years ago this month a group of British pop musicians came together to record a song to raise money for famine relief in Africa. They called themselves Band Aid – a clever play on words, considering most of them played or sang in various musical bands. The song was called *Do They Know It's Christmas*, and it still gets a lot of airplay each December. One of the verses is especially poignant: “But say a prayer for the other ones at Christmastime. It’s hard, but when you’re having fun there’s a world outside your window. And it’s a world of dread and fear where the only water flowing is the bitter sting of tears.” In 2014, another group of musicians have come together to record a new version of the song. They have changed a few lines, and are using the song to raise awareness of the Ebola crisis in West Africa. The song is a reminder to us that for many people in our world, there is no Christmas and no celebrations of any kind. Their only gift is life, with all of its problems of basic existence.

In his later years, my father developed significant health issues. He was often in pain with crippling arthritis and a fused spine from an earlier surgery. As his mobility became more limited, he rarely complained. It seemed that the older he got, the more his patience grew. He developed the ability to slow down and keep things in perspective. He took pleasure in simple things, and always found reasons for which to be thankful. He was an inspiration to me.

This Christmas season, chances are we will not face an ice storm like last year. But I suspect there will be other things that will try our patience. Some of these things will simply be “first world problems,” which we need to

keep in proper perspective. Other things may have a greater impact in the long run – issues of health, loss and well-being. But through it all, Christmas will come – calling us to invite the Prince of Peace into our small corner of the world. May you let him in with joy and patience, echoing the words of the apostle: “May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father.” (Colossians 1:11-12)

THOUGHTS FOR THE ADVENT JOURNEY...



Once upon a time, two thousand years ago, a teenage girl gave the world a song – actually, if you count all the songs that have indirectly come from her they would number in the thousands. She has inspired countless poets and composers. But Mary, herself, left us with just one song – the *Magnificat* -
My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

How do you VISUALIZE Mary? Soft with gentle features and a mystical, far-away look in her eyes, deeply spiritual? She was also a small town girl used to hard work and a hearty lifestyle. She was used to carrying jugs of water from the town well to her home. Gentle - yes, but delicate - no. She was at the age where she likely laughed a lot and was anticipating marriage in less than a year to a young carpenter.

When she heard the angel announce to her that she would have a son, and that she was to call him Jesus, she protested that she wasn't yet married *and* she had a few questions first: “How can this be since I am a virgin?” What would Joseph's response be like? How would the people of the village react? What would her parents think? (Luke 1:26-38)

Her next act was to set out to a Judean town in the hill country where she entered the house of Zechariah and was greeted by Elizabeth. She needed to confide in someone older and wiser. She made the trip “in haste,” for she was on a mission. Elizabeth was expecting her “first” in her old age. When Mary greeted her, we're told that *Elizabeth's baby leapt* in her womb. And that caused Elizabeth to pronounce a blessing on her cousin and that's what set Mary to singing. (Luke 1:51-53)

Notice anything strange about when she starts her song? Not after an angel has visited her but after an affectionate greeting from her cousin.

Elizabeth's greeting was not only warm and affectionate but also a powerful statement of faith. Mary not only needed the angel's call, she needed the confirmation of another human being. When Elizabeth said, “Blessed are you among women,” a song burst free in Mary's heart.

You may be an ELIZABETH in someone's life in the days ahead. A person may hear God's call or receive some sense of holy responsibility yet question the feeling or be pondering the “how comes” of life. What strength is given through a right word at the right time. Somebody may be ready to give up on a relationship, or be confused about a decision in their life. They need a voice – not of an angel but the reassuring word of another human being.

Mary's song is not just an Advent song – but one for all seasons. It is always time to magnify the Lord and to rejoice in God our Saviour. It is ALWAYS the season to recommit ourselves to loving concern for those around us.

Blessings for the journey,
Rev. Deborah Ban

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



In early September at 'Blast off' I put a sign up sheet for our "Bethlehem on Yonge". I was looking for teen or adult volunteers who would play a role in telling the story of Jesus' arrival on earth. To my surprise and delight several children signed up. They wanted to be an angel or a shepherd or a soldier or Joseph. The children are eager to participate and tell the world about the coming of Jesus.

We can all learn from our children. I love to observe their innocence and joy at telling the world about Jesus. And our church is so much richer when we include people of all ages in our worship and celebration.

May this Christmas be a time of joy and celebration as we learn from and care for each other.

May you know the peace and joy of our Lord.

Miriam Little

Director of Children's Ministries

PARISH NURSE

My favourite Christmas Carol is "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman". I love the message of "let nothing ye dismay, remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day - O tidings of *comfort* and joy"!

As a nurse, the concept of *comfort* is of particular importance to me. Providing comfort is an integral part of what nursing is. It can take the form of a state of *being*, such as relief from physical pain. Or, comfort can be a state of *mind* such as feeling re-assured that a situation will improve.

As the Parish Nurse for the YP community, I see one of the ways I can provide comfort is to ensure that helpful information and/or guidance for where to turn is available to you in times of need and *discomfort*.

This past September, the Yorkminster Park Health and Wellness Committee sponsored a Health Fair which was held in the Heritage Room. The event brought together various health and wellness resources all aimed at promoting wellness; preventing injury or illness; and guidance for times of crisis.

As a follow up to this event, and to continue the availability of information and guidance, a Health and Wellness Resource "Centre" is being set up in Room 403, also known as the Parish Nurse office. Everyone is welcome to come in for *comfort* in the form of tea, coffee, and health and wellness information.

The following list consists of resources I've compiled for quick reference and that I pray will be a comfort for you if needed over the coming Season of Joy:



Enrich your spiritual life
in this season!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

You are invited to choose one
of the following:

Wait for the Lord

By *Henri Nouwen*

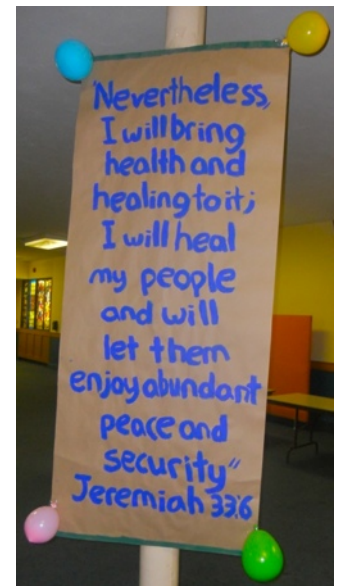
Living the Gospel Life

with a mission

Advent Calendar

Daily Scripture and Reflections

Sponsored by CE & Discipleship ministry



FAMILY HEALTH

Dial 311 for help with household matters such as electricity, water and waste removal.

Dial 211 for community services.

Health Care Connect: 1-800-445-1822. Help with obtaining a Family Doctor in Ontario

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000. A Registered Nurse will assess and advise if a health problem requires a trip to the hospital, Physician's office, or can be managed at home with instructions. Health Card required.

Med Visit Doctors House Call Service: 416-631-3000. A Physician will visit your home if you or family members are unable to get to your regular Physician or clinic for a health problem that is not an emergency. Health Card required.

Metro Mental Health Crisis Response: North York 416-498-0043 or **Scarborough** 416-495-2891. Provides support to adults 16 years and older who are experiencing personal mental health challenges or concerns about family and friends.

Ontario Poison Centre 1-800-268-9017 or 416-813-5900 provides telephone information and advice about medications and potential or real exposures to poisonous substances.

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/teens/home/splash.aspx>

is a free, anonymous and confidential phone and on-line professional counselling service for youth. Big or small concerns. 24/7. 365 days a year.

Stop A Bully: <http://www.stopabully.ca/about-stop-a-bully.html>. is a Canada wide anti-bullying program which allows any student who is a victim of or witness to bullying or cyberbullying, to safely report the details to school officials, at any school in Canada.

Youthdale Crisis Support Team: 416-363-9990. Any parent or legal guardian in Ontario can call the Youthdale Psychiatric Crisis Services and get immediate access to trained professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



SENIORS

Community Navigation and Access Program (CNAP): 1-877-540-6565. Available 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, and is staffed by Professional Social Workers with access to over 30 community support service services for older adults. Free.

Seniors Crisis Access Line: 416-619-5001. Available Mon-Fri 10:00 am - 9:30 pm; Sat-Sun 10:00am-6:00pm. For Seniors in any kind of crisis. Free.

Community Care Access Centre (CCAC): 416-506-9888. For Home Care help and information about Long Term Care as needed.

Cathy Newman
Parish Nurse



FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE.....

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM – aptly named as a gathering space for devoted women with generous hearts and loving spirits who knit, crochet and pray as shawls, lap rugs, “hug rugs” are crafted in fibers of rainbow hues and striking patterns and textures. On the fourth Tuesday of each month - December and summer excepted - women from novice to expert, come together to knit/crochet God’s love, care and warmth into each shawl. In this amazing outreach of love and compassion, inspired and coordinated by Rhoda Hill at YPBC, shawls are knit or crocheted to be given away to anyone in need of a tangible expression of God’s love, comfort and healing presence in their lives. Over the

centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance, symbolic of our embracing, unconditionally loving God. And so, as the shawls that our hands and hearts create are wrapped around another’s shoulders, it is our prayer that God will speak His love into each person’s heart as they are sheltered in this expression of his presence.

In their book, *Knitting into the Mystery*, Susan Jorgensen and Susan IZard talk about honouring the process of selecting our yarns. If we pay attention, God’s creative Spirit encourages us to personalize our shawls. An abundance of yarns are available along with the necessary needles and patterns from which we can choose. By holding a recipient of a shawl in our thoughts and prayers as we decide on our yarns and patterns, we enter into a sacred journey of knitting and crocheting in God’s presence. Honouring the process of selecting our yarns is the beginning of the adventure of creating a shawl that eventually will “enfold one of God’s beloved children in His warmth and compassion”.

Our experience together echos what Jorgensen and IZard describe. As our needles “chatter” together, our circle becomes a dwelling space of God’s Spirit and Joy. As shawls emerge so do a love, stillness and peace within our group. Often we work and pray in a companionable silence that “possesses us, gently revealing the God who knits us into wholeness”. A “holy hush” embraces us – “the connection between us is palpable and engaging – the space between us filled with His presence that draws us together wordlessly, silently, deeply”.

Janet Bristow and Victoria Cole-Galo, graduates of the 1997 Women’s Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary are credited with birthing this prayerful ministry in 1998. Perhaps not surprisingly, the original prayer shawl pattern came to Victoria in prayer and is based on a Knit 3-Purl 3 pattern, a pattern of 3’s can be found in every religion and society. This K3-P3 pattern is a powerful reminder to us as followers of Jesus, that we worship, pray to and fellowship with our triune God as *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. It reminds us that God knits us together in *body, soul and spirit*. Psalm 139: 13-14 reveals that both the Psalmist and God are no strangers to knitting!:

“You created every part of me, knitting me in my mother’s womb. For such handiwork, I praise you. Awesome this great wonder!”

In the weeks between our gatherings, we continue our work “alone” at home, in a waiting room, at a child’s lesson, even in a meeting! Many times we’re able to share our ministry when a curious onlooker queries our project. These times of ‘sitting and knitting’ can be calming moments of relaxation, rejuvenation and contemplative prayer – occasions when we experience God’s presence and blessing in our own lives as our shawls, filled with the power of prayer, will allow others to know God.



Rev. Dale Rose, the Minister of Pastoral Care for YPBC, delivers the shawls to appropriate recipients when completed. To date, approximately 140 shawls have been given to grateful recipients. The many “thank-you” notes that we receive have been deeply moving. A beautiful *Prayer of Blessing* By Janet Bristow accompanies our shawls:

*May God’s grace be upon this shawl...
warming, comforting,
enfolding and embracing.*

*May this mantle be a safe haven...
a sacred place of security and well-being...
sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.*

*May you the recipient of this shawl
be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love.
Blessed be!*

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome new members to join with us in this sacred ministry. Expert help is always available! A copy of *Knitting into the Mystery* is available in the Gladstone Library.

submitted by: Jonanne Fenton

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



The Board of Finance and Administration is very pleased to welcome Debbie Bozzi to the position of Director of Operations at YPBC.

Debbie brings with her over 25 years of experience working in administration, finance and construction, including 13 years working at another church as the Director of Administration. Debbie’s experience in church administration will enable her quickly to integrate with the functions and process currently at YPBC and to improve some of those processes.

On a personal note, she is married and has two step sons plus many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Her husband is in the construction industry which comes in handy when dealing with property issues at work! Debbie says that her family is probably the most important thing in her life, with work a very close second. She enjoys travelling with her husband especially “cruising”

and they try to fit in at least one cruise a year. She would enjoy sharing cruise stories with the many fellow cruisers at YPBC.

We are most fortunate to have recruited Debbie with her broad and church-specific experience and skills. Please welcome her to YPBC!

Debbie says, ” Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next while so please stop by my office for a quick hello.”

BUS TRIPS



Thursday June 25, 2015, to see "Carousel" at the Avon Theatre in Stratford. Cost is \$165.00 per person.

Thursday Oct. 15, 2015, to see "Pirates of Penzance" at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse. Cost is \$115.00 per person.

THE LESTER RANDALL PREACHING FELLOWSHIP – 2014

Beginning in the evening of October 26 and lasting until the lunchtime of October 28, our church was the venue for an exciting and beneficial gathering of clergy and lay people interested in and dedicated to the craft of preaching the Word. It was the second year of a revised format that incorporates plenary sessions, workshops, sermons and informal discussions during coffee and meal breaks. Registrations for the Fellowship broke through the 150 level we had hoped for and, from the results of an exit survey completed by just under 30% of the registrants, it was a wonderful success – so much so we are challenged to repeat in 2015!

The Fellowship has a mandate to celebrate and honour those who are students or practicing clergy striving for effectiveness in the act of preaching the Gospel. Dr. John Gladstone's vision was endowed by a generous gift from Gerard Collins and named in honour of a faithful layman who was dedicated not only to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church but also to the relevance and effectiveness of pulpit ministry for the declaration of the Word within the worship experience. We satisfied the mandate again in 2014 by associating in partnership and sharing resources with Metropolitan United, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Timothy Eaton Memorial United and Christ Church Deer Park Anglican Churches. Emmanuel, Trinity, Wycliffe, Knox and Huron Colleges, Tyndale Seminary and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School supported us by treating the Fellowship as a continuing education opportunity for their students and graduates.

The Fellowship was opened by His Eminence Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins with a sermon in the style of *Lectio Divina* at our regularly scheduled evening service. Then he engaged in a conversation with Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, a renowned theologian and Old Testament scholar at Columbia Theological Seminary. On Monday and Tuesday Rev. Drs. Barbara Mutch of Carey Theological College and Danielle Ayana James of First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Stephen's Theological College joined Dr. Brueggemann as plenary session presenters. In the midst of those plenary sessions were ten workshop opportunities for registered participants to engage more directly with well-known teachers and leaders. The public was invited on Monday evening to hear Dr. Brueggemann present a lecture in our sanctuary.

In order to give you a sense of the effect of this ministry initiative on active clergy, it was suggested to me that I ask our own ministers to offer a few words to describe the effect of the experience on their professional lives.

Dr. Peter Holmes sees it as “a great source of encouragement and nurture ... [coming] away with the joy of having been to a feast of the Word. Over meals and breaks one is able to find solace and comfort in the voices of others facing many of the same challenges in the faith. I go away with a new sense of hope. It has truly become a preaching fellowship. Lester's heart must surely rejoice.”

For Rev. Dale Rose, “...[It] is an oasis for the busy pastor. As preachers, we have to go to the well each week and ask the question: ‘Is there a word from the Lord?’ Sometimes the well is deep but not full. This ... is an opportunity for me to prime the pump. Instead of being the one preaching the Word, I am the one receiving the Word. It is incredibly refreshing.”

And Rev. Deborah Ban offered: “Scholarly, inspiring, collegial... a great event for both clergy and laity who are eager to learn from the best and be blessed in the process. A definite must for those looking for continuing education in the area of preaching and pastoral influence. Walter Brueggemann challenged the mind with scholarly insights, Barbara Mutch connected scripture with life experiences, and the workshop leaders offered fresh perspectives for engaging ministry. This made for an exceptional education offering for pastors and laity alike.”

Finally a special thanks to the custodial and office staff members without whose dedication the event would not have been possible.

submitted by Norm Hubley

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE ?

“The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man”.

G. K. Chesterton, The Introduction to the Book of Job.

Most Christians study the Bible for a well-known reason. They believe that God has chosen to reveal Himself not only through creation and conscience, but also especially through Jesus and through His Word. Studying the Bible, then, is a matter of course for those who love God and desire to follow Him.

I do not believe in God and I feel no pressing desire to become a Christian. Yet, I get great pleasure from attending the Berean Bible Study led by Peter Ferguson, every Sunday morning. Not surprisingly, I’m often asked why.

The Bible is the central text to the Christian faith but it is also a central text to the philosophy, history and literature produced by Western civilization. We all are the beneficiaries of the social products of Western civilization. We can freely express our ideas. We can participate in public life if we wish or not participate if we wish. We can attend a church or not attend. We can read any book we want or remain ignorant. We can lead our lives in any way we wish as long as we don’t prevent others from doing the same. Those freedoms are based on profound ideas that were inspired by the Bible and Christianity.

Not all products of Western civilization are good or promote freedom and healthy societies. Western civilization also produced Marxism, Progressivism and Fascism. Were those ideologies also inspired by the Bible? I don’t think so, but how would I know if I don’t know what the Bible says.

We live at a time when important and irreversible decisions are being made. Decisions which will determine how future generations will live — whether they live in freedom or bondage. It is our obligation to make sure that we make those decisions based on ideas as profound as those of generations past. That answers why I study the Bible and that’s why I hope that all believers as well as unbelievers study the Bible; it doesn’t answer why I attend, specifically, the Berean Bible Study.

I met Peter through my wife, who is a Christian, a little over a year ago. Peter and I had a very enjoyable discussion and became friends. He tried to persuade me to come to his Bible study but I was reluctant, at first. I realize that, for Christians, studying the Bible is not just an intellectual pursuit but also a form of worship. I was concerned that my unbelief would be a distraction. It was such a pleasant surprise to be warmly welcomed by all the other students, when I finally started to attend the class.

In the class, Peter employs a very effective method of study where we first read and discuss the text, before we are encouraged to read commentaries. Peter’s thorough knowledge of the Bible helps us understand the content and context of even the most difficult passages. But what I value most is the pleasure to be taught by a teacher who lives for his subject and has the enthusiasm, ability and restraint to pass it on to his students. It is an experience a few of us have in our youth but rarely again.

I’m very grateful for this opportunity.

submitted by Tom Brand

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Many thanks to all of you who came to the Refugee Sponsorship Open House on November 30 – your presence and encouragement were very much appreciated. There seemed to be strong support from a small group for sponsoring another family and for trying to establish this as an ongoing program. We do however need a larger group, particularly to help with the many tasks to be undertaken once a family arrives. If you were not able to attend the meeting but would like to express your support and offer your help, please let Michael Wills know at mwills@chartwellconsulting.ca or 416-485-4074.

Our next step will be to form a Sub-Committee of the Board of Missions to plan the Sponsorship Program in more detail. Please watch this spot for periodic updates.

submitted by Michael Wills

Christmas, 1914

A wintry chill in the frozen trench,
A keen wind over the sheltered rock,
A glint of light on the frosted street,
And fingers numb on the rifle stock,
The crash of gun and the scream of shell;
And God knows what, - for war is hell;
The ground blood-sodden, the snow red-dyed; -
But this, Ah this, is Christmastide!

A lightning flash in a riven cloud,
And Death rides through on steeds of war.
Thou night-clad Messenger, tell us this:
What men have died, and are dying, for!
Tell us if over earth's storm-swept plain
The star of the east may shine again!
Till the hand of hate from destruction cease,
Is there any place for the Prince of Peace?

A rifle shot, and a soul goes out;
A message home and a broken heart;
A sunken mine and a prow of steel,
And a ship goes down where the salt waves part.
The moist earth closes, the cold seas rage,
O'er the fondest hopes of a happy age:
A great sad world and a dying year: -
O Prince of Peace, Thou art needed here!

John George McKay

*Born in Little Branch, N.B., studied at Acadia University and
Harvard Divinity School, served as a chaplain in the Great War,
wounded at Amiens, died prematurely 1923.*

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there has been several milestones in the life of the church.

Baptism

Jonathan Fernandez

Deaths

Geoffrey Chick

Ines Watson

Hedley Roy

Bernice Anderson

THE DALTON SCHOOL – EMS

Now for most of us, EMS (Emergency Medical Services) may sound alarming or puzzling. But, for The Dalton School it means English-Mandarin-Spanish. The Dalton School rightly prides itself on being a dual language school, English/Mandarin, for children ages 4 to 8. In line with its progressive nature English/Spanish will begin in September 2015. I use the word progressive as I believe it embraces what is so clearly spelled out in their website: **“Globalization and technology are creating a far more connected world. To flourish in an evolving international landscape, our children need to know multiple languages and learn the nuances of world cultures ... children benefit now by learning a second language, as well as in the future, when being multilingual will offer tremendous opportunities.”**

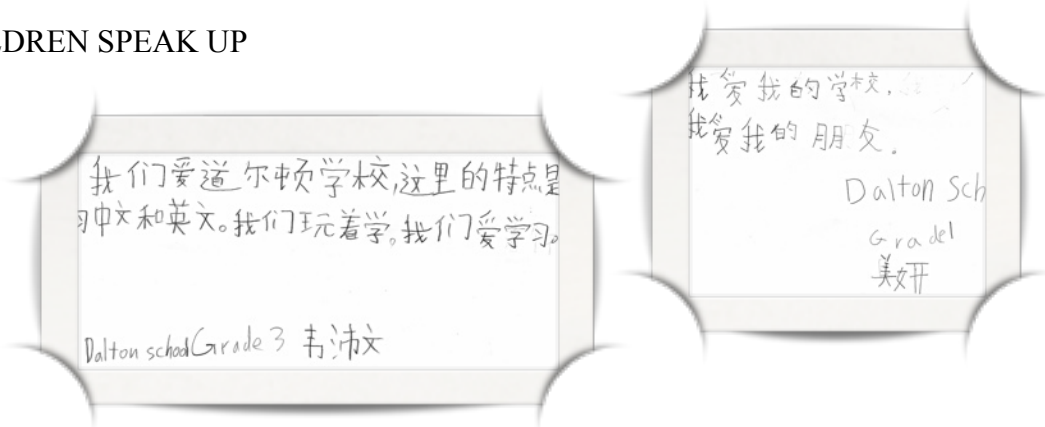
When I put some questions to the School’s Founder, Kim Dalglish Abell, her response was insightful, here it is.

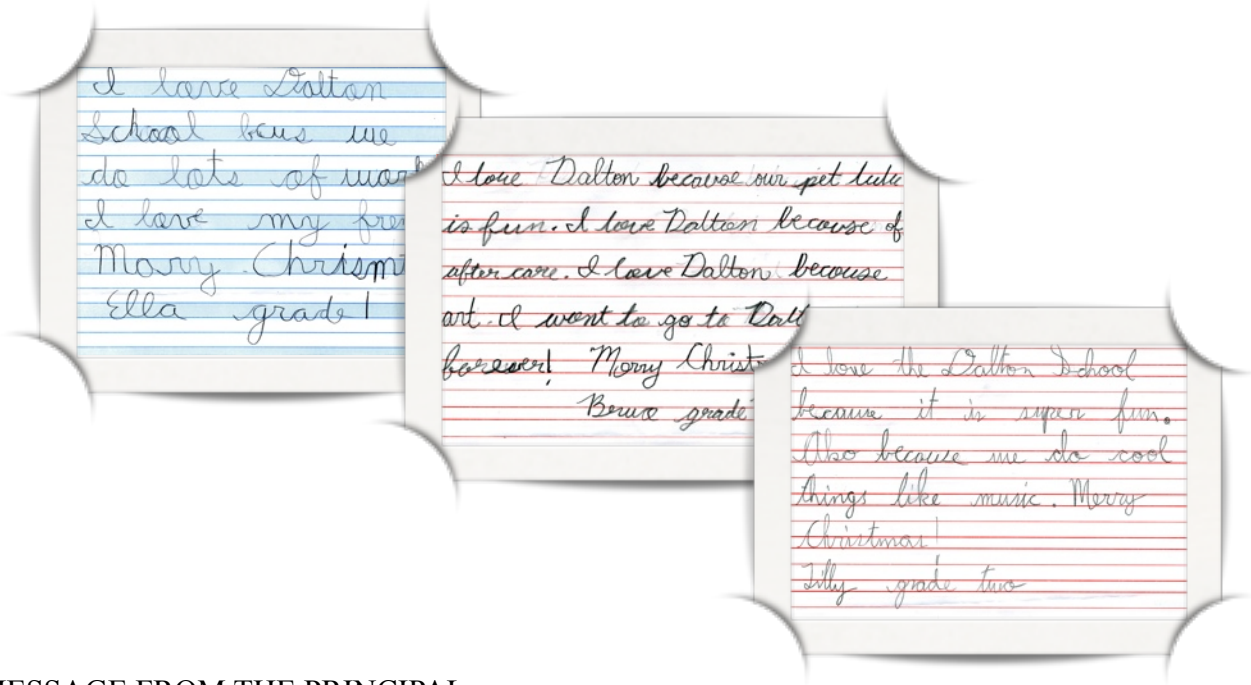
“I am also opening a dual-language Spanish/English kindergarten next September so parents can choose either Spanish or Mandarin (not both). There are no private Spanish schools in Toronto. Ontario mandates that only the languages of French and English be taught in our public schools. Spanish is a relatively easy language to learn and uses the same alphabet as English, while in Mandarin you have to learn to read and write characters. We are the only dual-language school in Toronto. There are immersion programs in existence but they do not support the child’s mother tongue. The Board of Education is happy. We have to resubmit every year our intention to run a private school. We are currently offering French and Spanish after school.”

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is generally thought to be a unique Church. While clearly The Dalton School is not part of the Church’s ministry, it surely fits into the inclusive culture of Yorkminster Park to have such a unique school, making use of the wonderful church facilities, as do many choirs and other organizations. Thanks to Kim Abell for her inspired vision, determination and leadership.

The Dalton School is a noticeable success story beginning in September 2012 with an enrollment of 3 students, to September 2014 with 27 students and likely continued growth with the addition of the dual language of Spanish/English beginning in September 2015. Last year five of the Dalton students took the level one YCT (Youth Chinese Test), out of Beijing, and all passed in May 2014. The plan is to hire another Mandarin teacher for the 2015/2016 school year. Such growth also brings challenges such as space availability at YPBC for two new class rooms. While YPBC is a church not particularly designed for inclusion of a private school, it is hoped that additional space can be found to accommodate this unique and privileged school. Dramatic changes in our world bring significant challenges to our young people but also incredible opportunities. We may be reassured by The Dalton School’s goal, as expressed on their website: **“... to build a solid foundation for all future learning and development, through small class sizes, caring staff, a stimulating multicultural environment and plenty of time to explore and discover, providing each child the opportunity to learn and shine. Wherever your child goes after graduating from the Dalton School he or she will be well prepared to excel.”**

THE CHILDREN SPEAK UP





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

“Entering our third year, The Dalton School is making a name for itself within the community. While the idea of dual language is still unique in Toronto, around the world it is a well-established, highly sought after and research backed method of education. And to think - Toronto’s first dual language school began right here at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. In September 2012 we began with 3 students and we have grown to 16 students in our elementary class, 11 in our kindergarten and closing in on 30 students within our whole program. Listening to the children speak to one another, respond to their teachers, read, write and complete math questions in two languages at such a young age is without a doubt impressive. Amazing things are happening within the walls of YPBC.”

Donna Booth, Principal, The Dalton School

I have been invited to visit the school on more than one occasion to see the children in class. I have had the pleasure of watching these polite children play on the grounds of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

I count it a special privilege to be associated with the Dalton School in writing its story each year, and a joy to work with its founder, Kim Abell.

God Bless The Dalton School.

submitted by John K. Fenton

THANKS

The 4th Annual 'Lullabies of Broadway' concert was held in Cameron Hall on November 12th. featuring Alison Walker on vocals with music from the Broadway musicals from the 1930's/40's and 50's. A total of \$6,100. was raised through ticket sales and donations, to be divided among the YPBC Choir Fund, P.O.I.N.T (North Toronto) and Meals on Wheels YP.

The event was co-ordinated by Bob Crawford with many thanks to those who volunteered to make the night a success.

submitted by Bob Crawford

YORKMINSTER PARK GALLERY

Maurice Snelgrove – *Watercolours* - continuing through Sun, Dec 21

Snelgrove's love of the outdoors and his concern for the environment are manifested in his spontaneous pencil & watercolour landscapes. He has painted coast to coast across Canada, as well as in the USA and Europe.

(image: Trinity, Newfoundland)



Ila Kellermann – *Remark* - Jan 15 reception, 12:30-2pm continues to Feb 18. Kellermann's work celebrates and documents the tenacity and timelessness of Nature. *Her mark making explores iconography and stewardship of landscapes and its inhabitants, while her ever-expanding membrane of color and contemporary approach articulate her passion for our environment and all the visual imagery it affords.* Ila's work reflects her ardent interest in petroglyphs, visual archetypes and the fragile yet powerful bonds communicated between nature and man, mother and child.

(image: title, Arctic Petroglyph, mixed media.)



Victoria Cowan – *Ghost Stories* – reception Sun Feb 22, 12:30-2pm. *The Ghost Stories are written by time. As events move back in memory, they become distorted by experience. But we still believe in their accuracy and they become the bedrock of our journey through life. What we forget is that beliefs are not fact, that our certainties may be shattered, that they are not wrong, just because we are right. Question everything.*

In printmaking, once a plate is printed, there is often enough ink left to print a lighter version. These are called 'ghosts'. Each artwork in the show started with a ghost print. And each incorporates a text, hidden in the layers, presented backwards, or overlaid multiple times. Just like so many of our assumptions.

